

Name:	<i>The Community and the Fire Threat</i>
Course Description:	This course examines concepts of community sociology, the role of fire-related organizations within the community, and their impact on the local fire problem, including fire service relationships within the community and other agencies, developing a community inventory, shaping community policy, master planning, and shaping community perceptions about the local fire service.
Objectives:	<p>Unit 1: The Sociology of the Community</p> <p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the sociological view of community; • identify and compare the definitions of community provided by Nisbet, Tonnies, and Durkheim; • describe how communities originated; • describe the concentric zone, sector, and multiple-nuclei theories of urban growth; • identify the basic features of central cities, suburbs, and rural communities; • list five basic conditions that constitute a community; • list five basic community functions identified by Wenger; • list four general features of community structure identified by Wenger; • identify four changes that occur in community function and structure during disaster and recovery; and • apply basic sociological concepts to your own community and describe the placement of the fire service within it. <p>Unit 2: The Changing Nature of the Fire Threat</p> <p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the changing mission of the fire service; • discuss the fire problem, in general terms, in all types of communities (urban, suburban, rural); • identify the principal occupancy in which the greatest civilian fatality rate and greatest property losses occur; • describe the effects of budget constraints on minimum staffing, labor agreements, and service levels; • describe the impact that fire codes and sprinklers have on public fire protection; • describe three levels of fire department involvement in EMS; • explain the effect of communicable diseases (AIDS, hepatitis, etc.) on EMS; • describe the role of fire departments in hazardous materials response and mitigation; and • list three federal agencies whose regulations affect the fire service.

Objectives:	Unit 3: Fire Service Relationships Within the Community
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define and discuss direct and indirect fire loss within the community; • discuss ethnic/class considerations in the community and their impact on the fire service; • describe the relationship that exists between the fire service and nonemergency community agencies; • identify programs designed to foster and motivate community fire safety and awareness; • describe how direct and indirect fire losses affect the community; • define and discuss racial groups versus ethnic groups; • discuss prejudice and discrimination; • state how the fire department functions in conjunction with the finance, purchasing, personnel, legal, and planning departments; • outline practices and procedures designed to improve relationships between the fire service and other community agencies; and • identify programs designed to foster and motivate community fire safety awareness.
	Unit 4: Developing a Community Inventory
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the purpose of a community inventory; • identify three general sources of information used in a community inventory; • identify, locate, and use sources of your local community history; • identify, locate, and use local community directories and government reports; • identify, locate, and use census data; • apply local government records in conducting a community inventory, including locating local zoning ordinances, building permits, and new construction; and • begin an inventory of your own community.
	Unit 5: Assessing Community Needs
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an argument by explaining three reasons for a community to assess its needs systematically prior to implementing a fire department program; • explain the role of community survey in assessing community needs; • describe the complexity and basic principles of asking questions; • describe the structured interview approach; • define the terms informed consent, confidentiality, and anonymity as they relate to community survey; • discuss self-administered questionnaires in terms of utility, sequencing of tasks, and advantages/disadvantages; • explain the advantages and limitations of social indicators; • discuss the use of three databases, including the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS);

Objectives:	Unit 5: Assessing Community Needs (cont'd)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the role and value of conducting a case study in a needs assessment; • define and compare retrospective and prospective methods of assessment; and • define the glossary terms.
	Unit 6: Meeting the Community Fire Threat
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the unique aspects of the rural fire problem; • describe the unique aspects of the metro fire problem; • identify common characteristics of rural and metro fire problems; • describe the changing and evolutionary nature of manmade and technological hazards; • describe the constant yet evolutionary nature of natural hazards; • describe the interrelationship of manmade and technological hazards within your own community; • describe the interrelationship of natural hazards within your own community; • describe the interrelationship between community government and the fire service; • explain the roles of community government and the fire service in the development of a disaster plan; • describe the constraints on disaster decisionmaking defined by local government; • describe the necessity of incorporating an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) into disaster planning; and • list the characteristics of an ideal Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as identified by community characteristics.
	Unit 7: Types of Delivery Systems
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list benefits and disadvantages of career, volunteer (on-call), combination, public safety, and private fire departments; • identify the advantages and problems in consolidating fire and building departments; • compare mutual-aid pacts, automatic mutual aid, and regional fire protection; • describe special response teams, including urban search and rescue, dive teams, high-angle rescue, and hazardous materials; and • describe the benefits and concerns of regional hazardous materials teams.
	Unit 8: Fire Service Relationships with Other Community Agencies
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the organization and responsibilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); • describe the concept of the Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS);

Objectives:	Unit 8: Fire Service Relationships with Other Community Agencies (cont'd)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the Incident Command System (ICS); • develop an ICS for your department and community; and • describe the duties of emergency management-related community agencies that affect the fire services, including police department, water department, public works department, and building department.
	Unit 9: The Adversarial Relationship in the Community
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the crisis resolution technique; • explain community-based protest; • list four factors that could create a negative attitude on the part of the community toward the fire service; • list four factors that could create a negative attitude on the part of the fire service toward the community; • develop a plan to maintain a positive relationship between the community and the fire service; • list the three general sources of community conflict; and • understand the decisionmaking process.
	Unit 10: Rethinking the Fire Department Mission
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the critical community elements that are essential for defining the scope and nature of the fire department mission; • describe the changing mission of the fire department and the factors that affect this change; • describe the importance of environmental scanning and change agents in facilitating change in the community's fire protection system; • describe the mission of the fire department within the community; • describe the importance of productivity improvement and cost controls within the community's fire department; and • describe the importance of prevention and public education in the mission of a modern fire department.
	Unit 11: Shaping Community Policy
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the seven interactive components of a community; • list four programs used to promote interaction between the community and the fire department; • describe the legislative processes of local government; • develop a budget for a fire department; • identify three political problems involved in providing fire services; • explain the relationship among taxes, services, and politics; and • list three examples of ways to influence special interest groups.

Objectives:	Unit 12: Master Planning for Community Protection
	<p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the origins of master planning and basic federal documents that advocate the process and set the baseline standards and guidelines; • discuss the importance of understanding the wider scope of community needs that dictate the political realities of the master planning process; • describe the application of planning guides such as NRT-1 to the master planning process; • apply the strategic master planning model to a community to determine the direction and degree of change the master plan must effect; • describe the incremental planning process used to develop the master plan; • perform a fire vulnerability risk analysis to determine the community needs profile; • discuss strategies for using planning teams and citizens' advisory committees to develop and implement the master plan; and • document the needs and performance levels necessary to a good master plan. <p>Unit 13: Shaping Community Perceptions of the Local Fire Service</p> <p>After completing this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe general marketing and public relations methodology; • identify opportunities for marketing and public relations activities in the fire service; • give examples or models of effective fire service marketing; and • suggest positive changes in current fire service marketing/public relations activities.
Required Text:	<i>The Community and Fire Threat Course Guide</i> , National Fire Academy
Supporting References/ Research for Faculty and Students	<p>U. S. Fire Administration</p> <p><u>Publications</u>: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/pubs_main.cfm</p> <p>See Fire Protection, Fire Administration, Fire Service Operations, Wildfire</p> <p><u>Applied Research</u>:</p> <p>http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/research.cfm</p> <p><u>Research Reports</u>:</p> <p>http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/r_reports.cfm</p> <p><u>Technical Reports</u>:</p> <p>http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/techreps.cfm</p> <p><u>Topical Fire Research Series</u>:</p> <p>http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/tfrs.cfm</p> <p><u>Learning Resource Center</u>:</p> <p>http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/lrc.cfm</p> <p>National Institute for Standards and Technology</p> <p>http://www.fire.nist.gov: Fire Tests/Data, Software/Models, Publications, FIREDOC (under Publications)</p>

Supporting References/ Research for Faculty and Students	Reference http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/fire-service/cipc.cfm Current Events/News http://www.firehouse.com/ http://www.fireengineering.com/ http://www.withthecommand.com/	
Assessment:	Students will be evaluated for mastery of learning objectives by methods of evaluation to be determined by the instructor.	
NFPA Standards Addressed:	Unit(s)	Description
1021-3-1.1 1021-4-2.1 1021-4-3.1 1021-4-4.1 1021-4-6.1 1021-5-3.1 1021-5-6.1 1021-5-6.2 1035-4-3.1	11 2 3 11 6 3 6 6 3	Legislative process of local government Establish personnel assignments to maximize efficiency Prepare community awareness programs Develop a budget Prepare an action plan Play a leadership role in community events Develop a comprehensive disaster plan Develop a comprehensive plan for civil disturbances Develop a comprehensive organizational public fire and life safety strategy
Chief Fire Officer Designation Competencies Addressed:	www.cfainet.org This course provides partial fulfillment of CFOD: Competency #4 Financial Practices Competency #7 Administrative Policies Competency #8 Hiring and Promotional Practices Competency #9 Employee Relations Competency #10 Health and Risk Management	
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